

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1 through 5, 7 through 14, 21 through 40 and 46 through 51 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Please note that all claims currently pending and under consideration in the referenced application are shown below. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of claims:

1–14. (*Cancelled*)

15. (*Allowed*) A liftgate, comprising:

(a) a unitary frame having an opposing pair of side plates, a trunnion tube extending and an extension plate extending between the side plates, wherein the side plates are adapted to secure the unitary frame to an underside of a vehicle body;

(b) a lift frame having:

an opposing pair of parallelogram linkages each having an upper arm, a lower arm, a proximal pivot member secured to the trunnion tube, and a distal pivot member; and
a lift frame tube extending between the lower arms of the parallelogram linkages;

(c) a liftgate platform rotatably attached to the distal pivot members and supported at one end only;

(d) a stop mounted on each parallelogram linkage adjacent the distal pivot member and configured to prevent rotation of the liftgate platform away from the upper and lower arms past a generally horizontal orientation parallel with a bed of the vehicle body and configured to allow rotation of the liftgate platform toward the upper and lower arms to a generally vertical position perpendicular with the bed of the vehicle body when in a lowered position; and

(e) an extendable actuator pivotally secured at one end to the trunnion tube and at another end to the lift frame tube;

wherein:

before being secured to the underside of the vehicle body, the unitary frame, the lift frame the liftgate platform, and the extendable actuator forms a freestanding assembly with the liftgate platform in a stowed position; and

when the liftgate platform is rotated to a horizontal orientation, extension of the actuator raises the liftgate platform from a lowered position to a raised position while maintaining the horizontal orientation, and when the liftgate platform is rotated to a vertical orientation, extension of the actuator raises and inverts the liftgate platform into the stowed position.

16. (*Allowed*) The liftgate of claim 15, wherein the side plates are secured to at least one sub-structure cross member of the vehicle body.

17. (*Allowed*) The liftgate of claim 15, wherein the extension plate is secured to at least one horizontal frame member of the vehicle body.

18. (*Allowed*) The liftgate of claim 15, wherein the side plates and the extension plate are secured to the vehicle body by bolts or welding.

19. (*Allowed*) The liftgate of claim 15, wherein the extendable actuator is a hydraulic cylinder.

20-40. (*Cancelled*)

41. (*Allowed*) A cantilever liftgate for use with a vehicle having a bed, comprising:

(a) a unitary frame having an opposing pair of side plates, a trunnion tube and an extension plate extending between the side plates, wherein the side plates are secured to an underside structure of the vehicle bed;

(b) a lift frame having an opposing pair of parallelogram linkages, each having an upper and a lower arm and a proximal pivot and a distal pivot member, and a lift frame tube extending between the lower arms, wherein the proximal pivot members are secured to the trunnion tube;

(c) a liftgate platform rotatably attached to the distal pivot members;

(d) a stop configured mounted on each parallelogram linkage adjacent the distal pivot member to prevent a rotation of the liftgate platform away from the upper and lower arms past a

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first orientation substantially parallel with the vehicle bed and allowing a rotation of the liftgate platform toward the upper and lower arms to a second orientation substantially perpendicular to the vehicle bed;

(e) an extendable actuator pivotally secured at one end to the trunnion tube and at another end to the lift frame tube, an extension of the actuator raising the liftgate platform in the first orientation to a raised position and inverting the liftgate platform in the second orientation into a stowed position; and

before being secured to the underside structure of the vehicle bed, the unitary frame, the lift frame, the liftgate platform, and the extendable actuator forms a freestanding liftgate assembly with the liftgate platform in the stowed position.

42. (*Allowed*) The cantilever liftgate of claim 41, wherein the side plates are secured to at least one underside sub-structure cross member of the vehicle bed.

43. (*Allowed*) The cantilever liftgate of claim 41, wherein the extension plate is secured to at least one horizontal frame member of the vehicle bed.

44. (*Allowed*) The cantilever liftgate of claim 41, wherein the side plates and the extension plate are secured to the vehicle bed by bolts or welding.

45. (*Allowed*) The cantilever liftgate of claim 41, wherein the extendable actuator includes a hydraulic cylinder.

46-51. (*Cancelled*)